

THE SCRATCHING POST



The Daily Newszine of ConFurence Seven

Friday Morning Edition

Welcome To ConFurence Seven

Attention! Greetings, furries from all walks of life! We welcome you back to where it all started, for many of us. We'd like to extend a special welcome to all our attendees from the east coast of the U.S. and Canada. Thanks for braving the transportation needed to get you here! We'll try to provide you with as much nice weather as we can for the next three days! And, speaking of atmosphere...

We have a slew of programming items and special events this year, so make sure to keep checking your pocket program — not to mention this very space, for changes and additions! Let me be the first to thank the Hendersons for providing this new service.

Between the SIGs, the workshops, the dealers, the video programs (One and Two!), the autograph sessions, and the art, the art... etc. (*whew!*) we think you'll have plenty to keep you busy between now and Sunday. And come the end, be sure to let us know how we did this time — so we can work on doing an even better job for you at ConFurence Eight in 1997!

Until then, have yourself a jolly old time — and that's an order!

Vinson Mink



Have an announcement?
Let us know!

Drop-boxes are available where you found this newszine! Please make sure you sign your announcements!

Registration Report

ConFurence Seven is the biggest ConFurence yet!

Pre-con registration is: 650, which includes both attending and supporting memberships.

Don't Miss It!

Today's Must See Events and Info

Artist Alley sign-up starts at 9:45 am.

Con Registration is open from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm.

Den of Dealers is open from 10:30 am until 7:00 pm.

Art Show will open when it is ready until 7:00 pm.

Program Changes

Things that WILL affect your life!

The Barney Appreciation Society meeting has been rescheduled for Saturday afternoon.

Fan Lounge!

Our fan lounge is located in the Sunset Lounge, upstairs at the Atrium Hotel. From the outside of the Atrium, if you look directly at the entrance and look up, you're looking into the Fan Lounge.

Finally, Friday, the big day! ConFurence! We want, make plans! - Simon

Party Listings

We will print party announcements on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Atrium

13th Semi-Occasional MST3K Bash!
Space 1999, Hangar 18, Star Trek V
Friday Night, 7pm-1am Room 155



Don't Forget! There are recycling bins located conveniently throughout the convention. Please do your part.

Check Point Furry?

Well, no, but close. The quickest access between our two hotels is to go to the edge of the chain-link fence where a path runs between the bushes.

Carniverous Treats! Where to Eat Around CF7

Near the sprawling CF7 complex, there are several places to get your munchies:

There is a food park just over the freeway on the Atrium side, perhaps a mile away featuring a selection of fast food and fine dining to suit every taste.

On the Atrium side, there is an IHOP and El Torito within easy walking distance.

On the Raddison side, there is a Hof's Hut, also within walking distance.

HELP STILL NEEDED!

The Friday and Saturday Life Drawing Workshops are still in need of people willing to be models - no, not nude! But if you can stand in place for a time and let people draw you that way, drop by the Information desk and sign up for a posing slot!



So You Want To Bid On Art?

One of the best reasons to attend ConFurence every year is the massive amount of artwork, sculpture, etc available for bidding. In fact, ConFurence has an art show larger than any convention its size!

Because bidding on artwork is such an important part of the ConFurence experience, we'll give you a quick run-down on what you have to do to get a bidder number, how to successfully bid on artwork and what to do when you win!

Bidder numbers are available, beginning when the art show opens on Friday morning, at a table in the art



Why One, What are we going to do? - Poley

show itself. ConFurence Seven's art show is located at the Raddison Hotel in the Monarch Ballroom (go in the front door, turn right at the first intersection and go all the way to the end). There you will be given an art show bidder registration form. Fill it out

Once you have your bidder number, don't forget it! For every piece of artwork you wish to put a bid on, record your bidder number and your bid. Do not use your membership number. Please remember that you are expected to purchase every piece of artwork for which you place a winning bid.

Hopefully, your art purchasing experience at ConFurence Seven will be enjoyable and you'll leave with a lot more fantastic artwork than you arrived with!

We're going to control ConFurence, for the reason that
control ConFurence, controls the world... Joss

THE SCRATCHING POST is printed twice per day. The morning edition goes to press at 8:00pm and is on the stands by 9:00am. The evening edition goes to press at noon and is on the stands by 5:00pm. Submissions, party announcements, etc. can be dropped where you found this newszine. Please be prompt. ConFurence takes no responsibility for lost, misplaced or eaten news items.
Editor: Brian Henderson Co-Editor: Lori Henderson Artists: Tygger Graf & Mike Higgs (thanks guys!)

THE SCRATCHING POST

2

The Daily Newszine of ConFurence Seven

Friday Evening Edition

Furries in Force?

Yes, the theme of ConFurence Seven is Furries in Force, but what does that really mean?

No matter where you look in anthropomorphic comics and animation, you find furries who are willing to put it on the line for whatever they believe in. Certainly, there are many different genres in which it occurs; from space pirates of the far future to barbarians of the far past.

Wherever or whenever they're from though, you can be sure that these brawling buccaneers will be there when you need them.

I invite you to rethink the brave bucks and does, those who have done so much, those *furries in force*.



Party Listings

We will print party announcements on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Atrium

13th Semi-Occasional MST3K

Bash!

Space 1999, Hangar 18, Star

Trek V Friday Night, 7pm-

1am Room 155

Location Unknown

"Midnight Over Minerva"

A special video screening of Minerva Mink's 2 1/2 Animaniacs episodes, plus some extra 'vid-bits', followed by a chat session about today's famous "Jilted Mustelid." Location to be announced, watch for signs!

Have an announcement?
Let us know!

The Scratching Post will print, as space allows, party listings announcements of a general interest to furries, etc. There are purple envelopes available where you picked up this newszine. Please make sure you sign your announcements, we cannot print unattributed material. Thank you.

I think no, three, but wouldn't open for second round? - Jody

Don't Miss It!

Today's Must See Events

Are you thinking what I'm thinking, Pesty? - Brian

The Ice Cream Social runs from 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm at the Atrium patio.

Club Tekno-Fur! ConFurence's own rave invites you to attend. There will also be a slave auction at the rave, so stop by and pick up a fur of your choice! It starts at 10:00 pm in the Irvine room at the Radisson.

Watership Down (the Fan Lounge) at the Atrium Hotel will be open for general filking starting at 8:00 pm.

The meet the guests presentation will be held from 5:00-6:00 pm tonight in the Hibiscus Room at the Atrium. Come meet Frank-Kelly Freas, Laura Freas, Andrew Swann, Eric Schwartz and Mike Higgs.

Program Changes

Information You Can't Live Without!

Unfortunately, due to family commitments, science fiction author Jane Mailander will not be able to join us at ConFurence Seven.

At the request of some of the participants of the Nitro Coon Radio Show, the Filk Contest will be postponed until 9:00 pm tonight

Addition: Tonight at 8:00 pm in Room 205 in the Atrium, ConFurence will hold "Weasels in Space", the official Skitlaire SIG. Chirp your way down there tonight!



Don't Forget! There are recycling bins located conveniently throughout the convention. Please do your part.

You pay me, Friday. He, we will add a second segment to the one comes at the one comes social, as segment that will make sure how down to see how many? - Don

Meet Our Guests of Honor Frank Kelly Freas

Frank Kelly Freas is recognized as the most prolific and popular science fiction artist worldwide. Author of three books of his own illustrations, Freas was the first in his genre to make his works available as prints. He has been publishing his prints for over twenty years and continues to do so today, with his 1991 limited edition collection.

Freas was the first to receive ten Hugo Awards and was nominated twenty times. In addition to his work in science fiction, he was the cover artist for *Mad Magazine* for seven years. An official NASA mission artist, his works hang in the Smithsonian.

Freas' original paintings hang in museum, university and private collections. One of his most numerous assignments was his commission by the Franciscans to create all 500 portraits for their *Book of Saints*.

Kelly Freas' career extends from *Astounding* and *Planet Stories* magazines through current clients in science fiction, gaming, motion pictures, conceptual medical illustration and advertising. He and his wife, Laura Brodian Freas, jointly won the 1990 Chesley Award from the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists for their painting, *The Scribe*, judged Best Magazine Cover of the Year. In 1991, Kelly Freas was installed into the National Hall of Fame of the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools and also received the Reader's Poll Award from *Analog* magazine for Best Cover of the Year.

Let's all give Frank Kelly Freas and his wife Laura a rousing ConFurence welcome!

From the Information Department:

The Dennys listed in the purple restaurant guide is at Bristol and Redhill - one block away from where I marked it on the map. The information department regrets the error.

Hazel the Bear

The staff of The Scratching Post thinks Hazel did a great job on the restaurant guide anyhow! Way to go.

Scratching Post Staff

Of Interest to Furies

Virtual Vikki's Treehouse has a new site on the World Wide Web.

See how Vikki was created in her



digital scrapbook!

See 1960s toys on Vikki's toy shelf!

See Vikki's library of videos!

Aim your web browsers to:
<http://www.snowcrest.net/fox/index.html>

Anonymous Announcement Found In Our Box

The Jihad to Destroy Barney the Dinosaur has announced its own annual meeting... wherever and whenever the Barney Appreciation Society holds theirs.

Watch those sparks fly!

THE SCRATCHING POST is printed twice per day. The morning edition goes to press at 8:00pm and is on the stands by 9:00am. The evening edition goes to press at noon and is on the stands by 5:00pm. Submissions, party announcements, etc. can be dropped where you found this newsline. Please be prompt. ConFurence takes no responsibility for lost, misplaced or eaten news items.
Editor: Brian Henderson Co-Editor: Lori Henderson Artists: Tygger Graf & Mike Higgs (thanks guys!)

THE SCRATCHING POST

3

The Daily Newszine of ConFurence Seven

Saturday Morning Edition

Fur le Dance Tickets Going Fast!

Don't forget! You need a ticket to get into our charity cabaret and they sell out quickly every year. For more information, read this: ➡

We're Sure We Did!

This should have ran before the rave, but we didn't get it in time. We apologize for any inconvenience. Use your imagination.

The Pet Auction - ConFurence Seven is proud to present a display of fine fur and sinew for your visual enjoyment - with a bonus. You can bid on what you see and maybe even own it - for a time - if you're lucky. All in good fun, of course, and all for good charity. So be sure to drop by the Irvine Room in the Radisson at 7:00 pm tonight - and we're sure you'll like what there is to see.



Tickets!

The Pizza Feed, which runs from 5:00 to 8:00 pm tonight is \$2.00.

Fur le Dance, which starts tonight at 10:00 pm, is \$5.00.

Tickets are available at the General Store, upstairs at the Atrium.

Registration Report

Registration figures for CF7 are in:

Final pre-registration figure:
633

Friday registration at 2:00 pm: 824.

For the math deficient among us, that means that in 5 hours, we received 291 new memberships! **WOW!**

Party Listings

We will print party announcements on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Amazingly enough, we haven't received any party announcements for tonight. Come on furs, you're not trying!

Sorry, you truly waste me. How we are supposed to control furry stuff if you forget to put the secret agreement into the one cream-line.

Don't Miss It!

Today's Must See Events

Artist Alley sign-up starts at 9:45 am.

Con Registration is open from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm.

Den of Dealers is open from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm.

Art Show is open from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm.

Our Cabaret, *Fur le Dance* begins at 10:00 pm in the Irvine Room at the Radisson.

The Pizza Feed will be held on the Atrium patio from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Tickets are required!

The Saturday Art Auction promises to be HOT! It will be held from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the Irvine Room at the Radisson. Don't miss this one!

Program Changes

Things you don't want to forget!

The Barney Appreciation Society Meeting has been postponed to Sunday morning.



Now That's Interesting!

In keeping with our "Furries in Force" theme, this intrepid reporter notes that not only are we across from the Duke's airstrip, but this year we have annexed the Radisson territory at the Douglas/MacArthur intersection...

Hazel the Bear

Notes From Information

Reynolds Rat says - Be sure to stop by the Information Desk in the Atrium, Second Floor, for a sweet bit (of candy) brought to you by this year's Worldcon, L.A.con III. We also have menus from most of the local restaurants.

Hazel the Bear

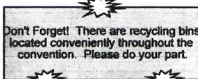
Highlights From The Dining Guide

We have a Chinese delivery service (Wok Spirit) and one, count them, one sit-down 24-hour restaurant (we'll give you a hint: it's not Lenny's).

Hazel the Bear

Then I have no idea!

Scratching Post staff



Berry Bear, I thought it made the cut even into Berry Bear - Pinky

Lost and Found!

Found: One video rental card! If you've always wanted to be David Shapiro, now's your chance. Stop by the Information Desk in the Atrium, tell us your favorite video store and we'll see if we can help you.

Hazel the Bear

Love the "Pinky and the Brain" linos.

Minerva



Art Auction Hints

How to make the best of your auction experience

The art auction is one of the high points of ConFurence every year. If you're serious about getting artwork there, these helpful hints will help you succeed!

1. The auction is not the place to look at artwork. Make sure you know what pieces you're interested in bidding on before you arrive.

2. Always observe the minimum bid requirements as explained in the auction rules. Don't be confused, the auction rules won't be printed until tonight's edition!

3. ConFurence requests that no food, drink or cameras be taken into the auction room. Please be courteous to the artists who go to all the trouble of producing these fine works.

4. Be kind, rewind. No, sorry, wrong hint.

Enjoy the auction!

Shower room, we must plan for tonight, for there's a plan that cannot fail! - Brian

THE SCRATCHING POST is printed twice per day. The morning edition goes to press at 10:00pm and is on the stands by 9:00am. The evening edition goes to press at noon and is on the stands by 5:00pm. Submissions, party announcements, etc. can be dropped where you found this newszine. Please be prompt. ConFurence takes no responsibility for lost, stolen or eaten news items.

Editor: Brian Henderson Co-Editor: Lori Henderson Artists: Tygger Graf & Mike Higgs (thanks guys)

The Long Awaited For Art Auction Rules!

Please note: The Art Show is open until **5:00pm** today, not 7:00pm as earlier announced. We apologize for any inconvenience.

1. Your membership number is not your bidder number. In order to bid at the art auction, you **MUST** have a separate art show bidder number.

2. Please be prompt. We appreciate as little commotion as possible by people getting into and out of the room.

3. Please bid only in full dollar increments. The word of the auctioneer is final in all matters and if your bid does not meet bidding increment rules, it will be ignored.

4. Bidding increments will be posted and announced at the auction.

5. Make your bids quickly. We're trying to make the auction as quick and painless as possible, but we need your help. Don't wait until just before the gavel hits, if you want the piece, bid on it!

6. Some times to keep in mind:

5:00 tonight:- Art show closes
7:00 tonight - Art auction starts

Ticket Information!

The Pizza Feed, which runs from 5:00 to 8:00 pm tonight is \$2.00.

Fur le Dance, which starts tonight at 10:00 pm, is \$5.00.

Tickets are available at the General Store, upstairs at the Atrium. Get 'em while they're available because when they're gone... they're gone!

What are we going to do tonight, bruv? - Judy

Art Show Rules Continued

12:00 tomorrow - Art show closes
2:00 tomorrow - Art auction starts

If you follow these simple rules, your art auction experience can be wonderful. If not... I'm afraid you will have to be taken out and shot.

One more time, so everyone gets it... repeat after me:

**My membership number is not
my bidder number!**

Repeat until understood.



Don't Miss It!

Today's **MUST See** Events

The Pizza Feed happens tonight from 5:00 - 8:00 pm at the Atrium patio near the pool. Don't miss it! Tickets are now available!

Fur le Dance, our cabaret, starts at 10:00 pm tonight in the Irvine Room at the Radisson. Get your tickets now before they're gone!

The Saturday Night Art Auction runs from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm. See the art auction rules in this issue!

Program Changes

Read This If You Want To Live!

The Skiltaire SIG announced for last night will be tonight, room 205 at the Atrium. The creator of the Skiltaire might even make an appearance!

Party Listings

We will print party announcements on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Atrium

Genie Furries, Brazilian Dreamers, Dallas Brawlers and anyone who wants to wish K'has and Chip Unicorn a happy one-year anniversary is invited to room 205 at 8:00 pm.

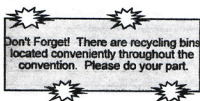
Brazilian Dreams Dinner! Meet at 5:30 pm in the lobby of the Atrium. We'll be renting a van to the restaurant. Chinese food!



Duplicating News

You already know about "Staples", the office supply and copy house at Birch and MacArthur where this newszine is being printed, but did you know that there is also a Kinko's Copies right down the road the corner of MacArthur and Bristol, perhaps 5 miles from ConFurence. They are open 24-hours and are just perfect for that late night copy run.

Hazed the Bear and Cephus the
Chetnah



We're Sorry, Minerva!

I was pounced this morning by Minerva and asked to make a correction:

Love the "Pinky and the Brian" linos.
- Minerva

(Brian, sic. not Brain!)

Your editor apologizes for trying to think so early in the morning.

Cephus - editor



Of Interest to Furies

At South Coast Plaza (the nearest shopping mall) the Laguna Art Museum Annex, just off the Carousel Court (by the B of A ATM) has an exhibit of Dr. Seuss originals from several of the good Doctor's books, plus cels from the Grinch animated special. Learn who was the life model for the Grinch and what a 225-word vocabulary made possible. The exhibit is open for another two or three months and I believe it keeps the same hours as the rest of the mall. The mall is located at 3333 Bristol at the corner of Sunflower in Costa Mesa.

Hazed the Bear

There are also shuttle busses leaving from the hotels to SCP several times a day, check with the hotel registration desk.

SP Staff

Tonight during the Convent, we'll check up on the lighting and, using a few modifications, hopefully everyone attending will be able to see the show better. With 215 hours at our command, we can control the darkness - Jibba



From the "Oh Ghod, What Have We Done?" Department:

The Barney Appreciation SIG has been replaced by the "Littlest Pet Shop" fandom sig. Watch this space.

sigh - Cephus

Volunteer Information

The largest snowstorm in New Jersey in recorded history was in White House, New Jersey, 1/10/96 - 35 inches!!!

Aren't you glad you're in sunny Southern California?

Like Anyone Cares, Right?

BTW: The 13th Semi-Occasional MST3K Bash went great last night. The room was absolutely packed and we apologize to anyone who couldn't find a place to sit. Anyone think we should see these on a big screen?

THE SCRATCHING POST is printed twice per day. The morning edition goes to press at 8:00pm and is on the stands by 9:00am. The evening edition goes to press at noon and is on the stands by 5:00pm. Submissions, party announcements, etc. can be dropped where you found this newszine. Please be prompt. ConFurence takes no responsibility for lost, misplaced or eaten news items
Editor: Brian Henderson Co-Editor: Lori Henderson Artists: Tygger Graf & Mike Higgs (thanks guys)

THE SCRATCHING POST

5

The Daily Newszine of ConFurence Seven

Sunday Morning Edition

So You Wanna Go To ConFurence Eight?

Well here's the skinny. At 1:00 pm, registration for ConFurence Seven closes and registration for ConFurence Eight opens. Nifty, huh?

What is ConFurence Eight going to be about? Well... I'm not really supposed to say, but come here, I'll whisper it in your ear.

ConFurence Eight's theme will be "Music and Mirth" with a sub-theme of "Scalies". Guests are still to be announced.

If you want to go, I'd suggest you get in line early and sign up now. Sponsors and Super-Sponsors are also encouraged to get their contributions in as early as possible.

If you plan to be a dealer at CF8, however, there is a different procedure. Find ConFurence's own lovable mink, Vinson, who should be stumbling around the convention bleary-eyed somewhere, and talk to him. There are some things that are changing for next year that you need to be aware of.

Party Listings

It isn't a party, but you should attend the ConFurence Feedback session from 2:00 - 3:00 pm in Room 205 of the Atrium. Tell us what we did right, what we did wrong, and what we can do to make CF8 better next year!

As Close To Final Registration Figures As We're Going To Get

As of the time this final issue of the CF7 Scratching Post is going to press, we've received 979 memberships, a new record for ConFurence! All I can say is "WOW"!



Don't. Truly, if you hadn't have looked on off the ledge onto the floor first, we would have succeeded. And being dropped on by Jani Doral and the Owner of the Super-Duper Palace was an added bonus. Sorry. Please read, we must prepare for next year. -Doral

On a Sad Note

Rroofus and MetalHead were tragically shot to death, 4:30 am, January 6th, 1996. Rroofus is survived by his wife Zsanene and two cubs, A.J. and Crystale. MetalHead is survived by his S.O., Gomez.

To stop inaccurate rumors, here are the facts of the event: Rroofus and MetalHead were walking late at night to a friend's home. Someone shot Rroofus first, MetalHead second. Apparently, there is a

Don't Miss It!

Today's Must See Events

Artist Alley sign-up starts at 9:00 am. Overflow space is available in Watership Down, the fan lounge.

Con Registration is open from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm.

Den of Dealers is open from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm.

Art Show is open from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm.

Meet Eric Schwartz runs from noon to 1:00 pm in the Hibiscus Room at the Atrium.

The Sunday Art Auction will start at 2:00 pm in the Irvine Room at the Radisson.

ConFurence Feedback! Come tell us how we did! It runs from 2:00 - 4:00 pm in Room 205 of the Atrium. Come on by any time, tell us what we did right, what we did wrong and what you want to see next year!

Program Changes

Hey! Where Is Everyone?

The Barney/Littlest Pet Shop Appreciation Society has been cancelled. Three unidentified bodies were found this morning floating face-down in the Atrium pool with purple plushies shoved into their mouths. Police have no leads, but heck, we all know it could have been any of us, right?



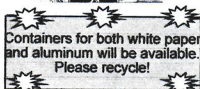
Why, Steve, what are we going to do next year? Puffy

known drug dealer in the area who looks near exact to Rroofus and has many enemies. The police believe it was a case of mistaken identity in a dimly lit street

Tygger

We'll all miss you...

Cephus



Meet Our Guests of Honor S. Andrew Swann

S. Andrew Swann was born Steven Swiniarski in Olean, New York, but has lived most of his life in the Greater Cleveland area. He began writing at an early age, borrowing typewriters from his parents as early

The Staff of The Scratching Post would like to thank everyone for letting us intrude a little into your packed con schedule. A very special thanks to our two artists, Tygger Graf and Michael Higgs. We'd also like to thank Chaz Baden, the lovable little bear, for all the help and silly suggestions and Vinson Mink for making this whole thing possible.

Brian & Lori Henderson
Scratching post Co-Editors



as elementary school. He wrote his first complete story around age 13 and continued writing all the way through college.

Forests of the Night was written while he was a full-time student, working third-shift at a Jewish Bakery in Cleveland Heights. On the basis of the success of that book, and its two sequels, Swann quit school and is now writing full time.

His works include:

Forests of the Night, 1993

Emperors of the Twilight, 1994

Specters of the Dawn, 1994

Profiiteer: Hostile Takeover One, 1995

The Long View "Amazing Stories", 1995

Partisan: Hostile Takeover Two, 1995

And a book on the way:

Revolutionary: Hostile Takeover Three, July 1996

Eric Schwartz

Eric Schwartz was born in Kettering, Ohio on November 27, 1971. He drew constantly, to the annoyance of

many of his teachers. Since High School, he has been producing animation using various Commodore Amiga computers and trying very hard to pretend that he's not a furry, although anyone who knows about Amy the Squirrel knows differently. Maybe some day, we'll get him to admit it.

Eric Schwartz did the design for this year's ConFurence T-shirt. Nice stuff!

Michael Higgs

Michael has been involved in one way or another with furry fandom for almost ten years. His first piece of fan art can be seen in the letters column of an issue of *Critters*, published by Fantagraphics Books.

He has also been seen in the pages of *Furversion*, *Centaur's Gathernum*, *Bestiary* and even this newzine.

Currently, he is working on pencils and/or inks for various projects including John Numumacher's *Fox Gordon*, M. Sonoda and Todd Starr's *Wild Frontiers*, Lia Graf's *Guardian Knights* series and his own

Doesn't thing we do every year, Puffy try to take over ConFurence? Steve

THE SCRATCHING POST was printed twice a day. You missed it! For those who are interested, The Scratching Post was produced on an IBM-compatible 486 using MicroSoft Publisher and printed on a HP Deskjet 560C color inkjet printer. Like you care, right? Well, we're done. That's it. Five issues in the can. Comments and suggestions welcome, of course. Don't worry, be furry. Pack out your trash.

Editor: Brian Henderson Co-Editor: Lori Henderson Artists: Tygger Graf & Mike Higgs (thanks guys)